

of her breasts. They were tumid, very tender, painful, and hard, with large superficial veins, and the milk had been drawn with difficulty several times with temporary relief. I recommended the application of the extract of belladonna to the areolæ, desiring them to send for a medical practitioner if the inconvenience did not immediately subside or unless she felt quite well. A few days brought me a letter, giving a very satisfactory account, and thanking me for what she was pleased to call my wonderful prescription. Within two hours she was perfectly relieved, the milk absorbed, and (what is very important) there was no fever or other inconvenience attending the sudden suppression of the milk; and, instead of taking the opening medicine I had prescribed for her, she continued her journey the next morning.

I have not been able to discover that the fact that belladonna is available for the purpose of arresting the milk secretion is at all generally known—certainly it was not to several accoucheurs in large practice of whom I have inquired. The fact is important, if true, for then milk abscesses will become a matter of past history, and probably many diseases of the breast may be rendered less complicated by its use.

The two cases I have detailed are not sufficient to prove that it will always be either successful or safe, but they render it highly probable that it is so.

7. *On Coniin.* By Dr. SCHROFF.—Twenty-seven experiments were made with coniin upon the human subject, three medical gentlemen having each submitted to nine. The doses given varied from 0.003 grammes to 0.085 grammes. The last and strongest dose which was taken corresponded to two drops of newly-prepared coniin taken out of a bottle opened for the first time. Dr. Schroff has found, by observations on rabbits, that exposure to the air weakens the operation of the alkaloid. This dose was dissolved in thirty drops of alcohol. The following account of the symptoms produced embraces those which resulted from the operation of smaller quantities. A very sharp taste, strong burning in the mouth, sense of scraping in the throat, salivation; the epithelium of the tongue was removed in spots; the papillæ were strongly prominent, and the organ lost sensibility, and was as if paralyzed. In about three minutes, the head and face became very warm, accompanied by a sense of fulness, weight, and pressure in the head (symptoms which were not produced by the smaller doses). These head symptoms reached a high degree of intensity; became associated with giddiness, inability to think or to fix the attention on one subject, with sleepiness, great general discomfort, and malaise (*Katzenjammer*), which, in a less degree, lasted till next day. The vision was indistinct, objects floating together, and the pupil was dilated; the hearing was obtuse, as if the ears were stopped with cotton; the sense of touch was indistinct, and there was a feeling of formication, and as if the skin were covered with fur; general weakness and prostration, so that the head was with difficulty kept erect; the upper extremities could only be moved with the exertion of much effort; and, on account of the weakness of the lower extremities, the walk was very uncertain and tottering. Even the next day the weakness of the extremities continued, slight trembling being induced by much movement. While going home, the muscular debility was especially great, the walk consisting rather of a throwing forward of the body, so as to bring the muscular action into as little use as possible. On stepping, and, when at home, on pulling off the boots, cramps in the calves of the legs occurred, as well as in other groups of muscles when they were called into action—as, for instance, in the balls of the thumbs when the thumbs were closely bent. This symptom was constantly observed in two of the experimenters when the dose was at least one drop. Under strong effort to move, pain in the muscles and legs occurred. Fresh air diminished the giddiness and fulness in the head, but in one of the experimenters, occasioned temporary pain in the course of the supra-orbitalis and cutaneous maxillary nerves. Eructations, abdominal rumbling and distention, nausea, even efforts at vomiting, occurred in all the subjects, even after small doses; in one case, actual vomiting took place. Sometimes there was a tendency to diarrhoea. No effect was produced upon the urine. In all the cases there was dampness of the ends of the fingers; and after large doses, the hands were absolutely moist. The

countenance was sunken and pale; the hands were cold and blue. After the larger doses, the pulse commonly increased in frequency to the extent of a few beats, but subsequently it always lessened; yet this diminution did not bear that relation to the extent of the dose as where aconite was given. Respiration was often yawning, but otherwise no constant anomaly presented itself. The sleep was good, and mostly very sound.—*Brit. and For. Med.-Chirurg. Rev.*, July, 1856, from *Vierteljahrsh. für die Praktische Heilkunde*, 1855.

8. *Ergot of Wheat*.—Dr. JOBERT makes the following statements respecting this substance: 1. The medical and obstetrical property of this ergot is as incontestable as of ergot of rye, and its effects are as prompt, as direct, and as great. 2. Its hæmostatic action appears certain. Dr. Jobert has administered it several times against abundant discharges of blood, and immediately after labour it has almost constantly and fully succeeded. 3. In the dose of one or two grammes, according to urgency, in cases of uterine hemorrhage, during any period of pregnancy, it has frequently succeeded in lessening, if not in completely arresting, the hemorrhage; and this without appearing to produce any stimulant action on the uterus.—*Gaz. des Hôpitaux*, March, 1855.

9. *A New Solution of Iodine in various Skin Diseases*. By Dr. MAX RICHTER. —The solution is made thus: Half an ounce of iodine is to be dissolved in an ounce of glycerine, and subsequently half an ounce of iodine is to be added, which completely dissolves in a few hours. In the experiments made with this solution, it was applied to the surface by means of a hair pencil; the part was then covered with gutta serena paper, fixed at the edges with strips of plaster, so as to prevent the volatilization of the iodine. This was removed after twenty-four hours; and for a similar time, cold pledgets were applied. Burning pain, more or less intense, but rarely of more than two hours' duration, was produced. The repetition of the painting depends on the appearance of the part and the amount of disease. The conclusions of the author are—1. That the iodine thus applied acts as a caustic. 2. That while it possesses considerable curative powers in respect of scrofulous and syphilitic affections, it is especially useful in lupus. 3. That the solution dissipates even deeply-seated tubercles of lupus, and may be applied for this purpose to the most tender surface without fear of eroding it. 4. That when the solution was applied only to a part of a diseased surface, the remainder was, nevertheless, influenced. 5. That it is particularly serviceable to large and superficial sores. 6. That after a series of paintings, and when the sore was almost healed, the local pains greatly increased in intensity.—*Wochenblatt der Zeitschrift der k. k. Gesellsch. der Aerzte zu Wien*, 1855.

10. *Caustic Collodion*.—Dr. MACKE (of Sorau) has for some years successfully used a solution of four parts of deutochloride of mercury in thirty of collodion, to destroy *nævi materni*. There is no better caustic when it is desired to cause them to disappear quickly and certainly, in those cases in which the use of a cutting instrument is objected to, or where excision is not very practicable, as on the cartilages of the ear; it is especially useful with very petulant children, when other caustics cannot be retained in their place, or when they are likely to be soiled by urine or fecal matters.

The application of this caustic is easy, and is performed with a fine camel's hair brush; its sphere of action may be perfectly determined, and it dries so quickly that it is impossible that it should extend to any neighbouring healthy part, or be removed in any way by the patient.

If much inflammation supervenes, cold applications are useful; the eschar is solid, one or two lines in thickness, according to whether the caustic is applied once, or more frequently; it separates from three to six days after, and leaves but a trifling cicatrix.

The pain is seldom intense and soon passes over. The author, who has found great success in many cases with caustic collodion, is quite certain that there is no fear of poisoning, and recommends its use to the profession as being as certain in its results as it is easy of application.—*Dublin Hosp. Gaz.*, July 1, 1856, from *Journal de Chimie Médicale*.